

Reporting Form

Project Progress (Narrative Report)

Financial Support

For all projects supported by the Protestant Agency for Diakonia and Development - Bread for the World – Protestant Development Service (hereafter referred to as Financing Partner) a progress report is required after every six months. The report shall be sent to the Financing Partner 3 months after the end of the reporting period at the latest. Its volume should not exceed a total of 12 pages. Any additional information should be added as appendices. This applies also to statistical data, photographs, etc.

1. General Information

Name of the Organisation	Vasundhara
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Project Title	Enabling, Empowering and Enhancing Access to Entitlements, Sustainable Livelihood and Participatory Governance among the Marginalised Communities in Six States of India
Project-No.	
Project Period	From 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2018
Reporting Period	From 1st April 2017 to 30th September 2017
Date of Report	30th September 2017
Author	Vasundhara

2. Change within the Organisation

During the reporting period, did any important events or changes take place within your organisation?

2.1
related to the management structure?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe:

No

2.2
related to your planning system?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe:

No

2.3
related to the composition of your staff?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe:

No

2.4
related to other issues?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe:

No

3. Changes of social, political, economic and ecological project context

3.1
Are there important changes (social, political, economic, ecological) in the projects' immediate environment since its inception?

Yes No

If Yes, please describe:

During the reporting period, the State Government of Odisha viewed the Forest Rights Act as one of the important vehicle to address rights and livelihood security of a major portion of the population particularly in the tribal heartlands where contestations over resources have gone beyond a manageable proportion. While rights are now being recognized (though recognition process for community rights have been extremely slow and is wrongly perceived and understood at different levels of government sectors), there has been increasing debate on post right scenario, particularly in terms of mechanisms for protection and maintenance of rights over such resources over which rights have been recognized and also secure and strengthen livelihoods based on such resources. On both the fronts, we have taken several positive steps in building working and productive relation with government and its agencies. On the front of FRA, cooperation and response from the government was much beyond expectation. However reason underlying this engagement relates to the relentless & meticulous work on FRA particularly systematic research into implementation issues and adequate sharing with government and agencies forced them to sit back and take note of the situation and undertake positive steps.

The Forest Rights Act rendered this practice of states illegal by recognising the right of forest dwellers to own, manage and sell minor forest produce. 1st time in India, MSP (Minimum Support Price) scheme has been launched by Government of India under the aegis of Ministry of Tribal Affairs in the year 2013 – 2014. This scheme aims to establish a system to ensure fair returns to the primary gatherers, especially Scheduled Tribes, who's life and livelihood significantly depends on forests and forest products. It also aims to share the profit with gatherers after deduction of sale proceed, which is unique itself. Presently this scheme is implemented in the States having Scheduled Area and Scheduled Tribe in accordance with Fifth Schedule of the constitution of India. The total outlay of the project as approved by the cabinet for the 12th plan period is Rs. 1216.78 crore, of which Government of India would bear Rs.967.28 crores, which is 75% of total earmarked for the project.

A Regional committee has been formed for sustainable management and sustainbale harvesting of siali leaves within Bandhamunda GP. MMJSP along with the Women Committee celebrated the Siali Leaf Utsav by planting more seed and saplings of Siali leaf in the near by forest. In this activity many students and other organizations like Bakul Foundation participated in the event. The committee is responsible for regeneration and sustainability of the Siali leaf in the region for larger benefit of the dependent groups on particularly siali leaf.

3.2

Is the underlying problem analysis of the project still valid considering possible changes in the context?

Yes

No

If No, please describe:

Problem analysis (Yes, the underlying problem analysis of the projet still valid considering possible changes in the context)

3.3

Do these changes have implications for the work, the project objective and the latter's achievement?

Yes

No

If Yes, please describe:

No

4. Outcome and Impact

Project objective: The agricultural basis for nutrition and off-farm livelihoods for farmers and landless families is improved.

Indicators (information differentiated by sex or one indicator for the gender dimension)	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned activities	Implemented activities
1. 400 farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices.	200 no of farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices in their Individual land recognized under FRA	Linkgaes with line departments , Schemes and Entitlements for land development and product enhancement Training and capacity building of farmers on sustainable agricultural practices, sustainable harvesting etc	200 no of farmers have linked with Convergency and Horticulture department for land development to enhance their productivity by adopting sustainable agricultural practices

<p>2. 300 are benefitted through non-farm activities.</p>	<p>Forest based Enterprise Development is done by establishing Community based Siali Leaf Enterprise. 100 women entrepreneurs from Bandhamunda GP, Ranpur involved in siali leaf plate stitching activities.</p> <p>Cashew enterprise</p> <p>Vasundhara facilitating market 1qu. of soapnut trading done with Bubble-nut Wash, a Bangalore based company who manufactures organic detergent</p> <p>Cluster level meetings with support from MMJSP filed petition against Campa bill to SCST Departme</p> <p>District level DWC meeting</p> <p>MSP campaign on new revised guideline for 15 villages</p> <p>Established the information center (Ama jungle kutir)</p>	<p>a. Training on Enterprise Development on Siali leaves. Siali ut-sav organised to sensitise the community on protection of Siali plants.</p> <p>b. Cashew and KL advocacy were made</p> <p>c. Soap nut marketing</p> <p>d. cluster level meetings</p> <p>e. District level DWC meeting</p>	<p>a. 1days training on siali leaf plate stitching was organized in-Bandhamunda GP for more than 100 women</p> <p>Training on cashew processing and-women groups are exposure to cashew processing unit</p> <p>2 cluster level women meeting organised</p> <p>c. 1 District level consultation was organized where women groups from 5 block participated to discuss on various forest and their caste issue and livelihood issues</p>
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<p>3. Indicator 2 c:</p> <p>300 farmers have increased their annual average income from Rs 24000/- to Rs 36000/-.</p>	<p>115 farmers have increased their annual average income up to 70% and 185 farmer's annual income increased upto 60% from the individual land under FRA by adopting sustainable agriculture techniques</p> <p>450 families have increased their annual average income from Rs 24000/- to Rs 36000/- from non farm activities especially from collection and marketing of minor forest produces as a result of market linkages established by Vasundhara during the project period.</p>	<p>. 100 no of women members after getting training on stitching</p>	<p>As per the latest information in the recent year KL pluckers have incurred Rs.318168.00 as income and Rs. 9395717.00 in cashew trade</p> <p>b-1 campaign organised ,covered 15 villages on MSP new revised guideline</p>
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If the project is more complex and composed of different project components, kindly use the spread sheet attached.

4.1

What other changes beyond the ones described in the above table did you observe/detect? Please mention anything that may be of relevance to the project progress.

1Community members were made aware on different aspect of FRA and act accordingly for their individual forest rights and community forest rights as well. Basically awareness program was organized for the Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (OTFD) communities to fight for their rights under individual forest right under FRA. Women Forest Protecting Groups are active and support to Central women committee in the state. Incorporating gender in all the activities taken up by the members of federation including FRC members, CWC members, primary gatherers, PRI members etc. As a result of which,

a. Increased participation of women in gram sabhas particularly in FRA claim making and role of women in forthcoming panchayat elections are now observed in the operational area.

b. women members are now taking lead in the course of action pertaining to dialogue with Government line departments particularly implementation of convergent schemes

like MGNREGA, Education, CAMPA etc. and other actors with respect to strengthening of their livelihoods.

4.2

In case you observed any direct negative outcome of the project, please describe it, too.

No

4.3

Which incidents / events could you observe, which you consider to be contributing to or interfering with the accomplishment of the development goal (impact-level)?

Primary gatherers are getting fair price on MFP due to the MSP on MFP. The local market price of various MFP has substantially increased due to the competition by the local buyers. Apart from this Fair Average Quality (FAQ) related to MFP was popularized among the MFP gatherers. Women have been able to sell Kendu (Tendu) Leaves due to the opening of Phadis in their locality.

4.4

Which methods did you apply to assess your project's outcome and impact?

Meetings with the stakeholders (especially women) was held to assess the impact of the project on their livelihoods. Apart from this we have used indicators such as increase in prices of and income from NTFPs.

5. Conclusion for the Future Work

5.1

Based on your experience gathered, do you see a need to change the planned activities in order to accomplish the project objective?

Yes

No

If Yes, please state the reasons and elaborate on the changes:

Given Vasundhara's expertise in Forest Rights and Forest based livelihoods, we'd be grateful if our project is allowed to specialise on enhancing forest based livelihoods of a larger set of households (say about 1000) instead of the current focus on using a mix of forest and related and Farm related activities.

5.2

In case you require consultancy services, please state the respective area:

In case we have to continue working on Organic Agriculture as a core area of engagement under the project, we'd be grateful to receive training and knowledge support from other partners who specialise on the same.

5.3

Which are the most important lessons learned during the reporting period?

Please refer to gender equality issues also.

Community asserted their traditional rights over the resources (Cashew). Cashew corporation, which was earlier auctioning away the Cashew Fields to outside traders has now stopped the auction process and recognized their traditional rights. In this circumstance women groups are more powerful to assert their rights.

Now women folks are participating in gram sabha meeting and raising their concerns. They have taken a lead role in CFR mapping process and involved in the joint verification and GPS process on CFR claims.

In the implementation of the MSP Scheme on Minor Forest Products, the federation and women groups are closely working with the Primary Procurement Agencies and TDCCOL to provide fair price on MFP to large no of primary gatherers in the area.

Annexe to 03-5 (Narrative Report):

Project components' objectives	Indicators (information differentiated by sex or one indicator for the gender dimension)	Achievement of objectives (Assess using indicators)	Planned Activities	Activities implemented / carried out
1. The agricultural basis for nutrition and off-farm livelihoods for farmers and landless families is improved.	1. 400 farmers have adopted sustainable agricultural practices.	200 no of farmers have adopted sus-tainable agricultu-aral practices in their Individual land recognized under FRA	Linkgaes with line departments , Schemes and Entitlements for land development and product en-hancement Training and ca-pacity building of farmers on sus-tainable agricul-tural practices, sustainable har-vesting etc	200 no of farmers have linked with MGNREGA and Horitical-ture depart-ment for land development to enhance their produc-tivity by adopting sus-tainable agri-cultural prac-tices
	2. MMJSP filed petition against Campa bill to SCST Department. Discussion on non-recognition of Forest Rights, plantation, cashew advocacy and KL issues .	a. SCST Department sent out notice to district administration to conduct enquiry against the petition filed . Petition filed with the appropriate authority against the issues likeCAMPA bill & plantation	a. Cluster strengtheing process b. District level orientation-cum-training program was organized for district officials	Villages level meetings with support from MMJSP filed petition against Campa bill to SCST Department. follow up with District adminitration on the progress of enquiry and status of FRA claims. follow up with DWO on MSP campaign
	3. Assertion of forest rights-Villages in Bandhamunda have strated thengapalli in their CFR area	25 new CFR claims were submitted to SDLC	Filing of CFR Claims	25 new CFR claims after approved from Gram Sabha submitted to SDLC

<p>2. Forest Based Livelihood Enterprise Development</p>	<p>1. 300 are benefitted through non-farm activities.</p> <p>Exploring the option of sustainable livelihood from siali leaf plate stitching for 100 women of Bandhamunda GP, Ranpur.</p>	<p>After receiving training, the women group sent siali leaf plate to local traders for trading opportunity, which was subsequently approved and the group has received a consignment.</p> <p>1qu.of soapnut trading was done with a Bangalore based company named Bubblenut wash who manufactures organic detergent.</p>	<p>a. Training on Enterprise Development on Siali leaves. Siali utsav organised to sensitise the community on protection of Siali plants.</p>	<p>A one days training on siali leaf plate stitching was organized in Bandhamunda GP for more than 100 women</p> <p>Vasundhara facilitating market linkages for siali leaf trading and soapnut trading and supporting PPAs under TDCC</p>
	<p>2.</p>			
	<p>3.</p>			
<p>3. Strengthening the federation through adequate knowledge base on emerging threats on forest resources like the ongoing development schemes and programmes and possible newer interventions by different global actors.</p>	<p>1. 300 farmers have increased their annual average income from Rs 24000/- to Rs 36000/-.</p>	<p>450 families have increased their annual average income from Rs 24000/- to Rs 36000/- from non farm activities especially from collection and marketing of minor forest produces as a result of market linkages established by Vasundhara during the project period.</p>	<p>Vasundhara facilitating market linkages for siali leaf plate and soapnut and supporting PPAs & TDCCOL under MSP MFP Scheme . 1qu.of soapnut trading done with Bubblenut Wash, a Bangalore based company who manufactures organic detergent. 100 no of women members after getting training on stitching they are supply the leaf plates for local traders</p>	<p>In the recent year Tendu leaf (KL) pluckers have incurred Rs.318168.00 as income and Rs. 9395717.00 in cashew trade .</p> <p>b. After campaign on MSP scheme PPA are link up with TDCCOL</p>
	<p>2. A Regional committee has been formed for</p>	<p>The committee is responsible for re-</p>	<p>Siali Leaf Utsav celebrated to create awareness on the</p>	<p>MMJSP along with the Women Committee</p>

	sustainable management and harvesting of the siali leaves within Bandhamunda GP.	generation and sustainability of the Siali leaf in the re-gion for larger benefit of the dependent groups on particularly siali leaf.	need, market demand and regeneration of Siali plants in the existing forest.	celebarated the Siali Leaf Utsav by planting more seed and saplings of Siali leaf in the near by forest.
	3.			
4. Strengthening the Central Women Committee to take a lead role in the women empower-ment process.	1. Support to Central women committee	Increased participation of women in gram sabhas particularly in FRA and local issues	a.2 cluster level meetings	a. 2 cluster level meeting with 35 women
	2. .	Women groups are raised their voice to District adminstation by memorendum on CFR/CRR recognition and also media coverage	b. District level women consultation	b. 1 District level consultation were organised.
	3.	Media coverage some development on Ama jungle kutir	Information center establish	